

US Army Combat Readiness Center (USA CRC)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 8 Feb 05

1. What is the United States Army Combat Readiness Center (USA CRC)?

a. On 31 Jan 05, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff, Army, signed a memorandum, subject: Transformation of the United States Army Safety Center (USASC). This memorandum transforms USASC into the US Army Combat Readiness Center (CRC) and directs that “The CRC will be the Army’s focal point for analyzing accident, serious incident, and combat loss reports, identifying lessons learned and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) to mitigate and prevent future losses.”

b. The CRC is center of gravity for all losses, that is, deaths, and central repository for all loss-related information. This means that the CRC gathers data on all losses – accident, combat, medical, and criminal.

c. The CRC will connect the dots among all Army losses and provide quick distribution of information (48 hours from the incident) and distribution of knowledge (6 weeks from the incident) to keep future losses to the irreducible minimum.

2. Is this only a name change? Or, has the mission changed?

The mission of the CRC is to enhance combat readiness and preserve combat power, one boot print at a time. The mission becomes explicitly, by word and deed, Soldier-centric, that is, the Soldier is Center Stage in everything we do. This is an expansion, not elimination, of the safety mission. The Director of Army Safety retains the same responsibilities for safety as before the CRC was established. The expanded mission now directs that he also “advance the principles, understanding, and practice of Composite Risk Management (CRM).” (See FAQ 8 for an explanation of CRM.)

3. How is the CRC mission different from the mission of the former USASC?

Establishing the CRC recognizes that a loss is a loss—no matter where it happens—and that every loss degrades combat power. The CRC will execute a four step knowledge-sharing process, called Point of Impact. These quick-turn SITREPs, called Preliminary Loss Reports (PLRs), will contain brief notices of losses and near real-time synopsis of what we know so you are aware of the issue quickly. Whenever possible, the PLR will alert you to trends and prevention measures. This service is in its infancy and will continuously be refined. There are ambitious plans in the coming weeks and months that will lead us to look at those things beyond fatalities that result in lost workdays for both our Soldiers, DA civilians, and contractors. Two items of note: First, we are not throwing the baby out with the bath water—Safety remains a strong component of what we do. Second, we are collaborating with other organizations to connect the dots; we do not own them nor do we do their jobs. (See FAQ 10 for an explanation of the combat readiness process.)

4. Is the Director of Army Safety now the Director of Combat Readiness?

No. The Director of Army Safety remains in place. In addition to being the Director of Army Safety in Washington, D.C., he is the Commanding General of the US Army Combat Readiness Center at Fort Rucker, AL.

5. Do military and civilian safety professionals now become Combat Readiness Officers? For example, are Aviation Safety Officers (ASO) now Combat Readiness Officers? Are Additional Duty Safety Officers (ADSO) now Additional Duty Combat Readiness Officers?

No. The missions of the ASO, the ADSO, and the full-time military and civilian safety professional remain essentially the same. Their capabilities and access to tools and knowledge sharing will expand to benefit commanders.

6. What is the mission of the Army Safety Office?

The Army Safety Office executes functions focused on the safety aspect of combat readiness. The ability of the Army Safety Office to manage the Army safety program was strengthened upon establishment of the CRC. Its responsibilities are expanded to focus on compliance, policy, and field liaison with Headquarters, Department of the Army. The Washington, D.C. location affords the opportunity for quick access and prompt response to senior decision makers.

7. Is safety, particularly workplace safety, excluded from the CRC mission?

No. Any death as a result of Army operations compromises readiness. Therefore, any loss to a Soldier, other Service military personnel, friendly forces, government employee, contractor, or the public is within the scope of the CRC. Note, however, that the primary agent for the safety element of combat readiness is the Office of the Director of Army Safety in Washington, DC.

8. What is Composite Risk Management (CRM)? How does it differ from Risk Management (RM)?

a. “What can I do to stay in the fight?” That’s the question answered by CRM. Consider the enemy, environment, material, systems, and human error in each of the 5 steps of the risk management process found in FM 100-14.

b. CRM is more comprehensive and positive than the term ‘safety’. CRM supersedes the term ‘safety’ and transcends the practice. CRM reflects how deeply Army values each person and controls risks wherever and whenever risk exists regardless of the source.

9. What is the authority to transition from RM to CRM?

Composite Risk Management (CRM) is the Army's principal risk reduction process. It is within the scope of published regulations and authorities, specifically, Army Regulation 385-10 and Field Manual 100-14, as refined by SA and CSA memorandum, subject: Transformation of the United States Army Safety Center, 31 Jan 05.

a. Memorandum from the Secretary of the Army (SA) and Chief of Staff, Army (CSA), subject: Transformation of United States Army Safety Center, dated 31 Jan 05, provides the Commander, USA CRC, with responsibility 'to advance principles, understanding, and practice of CRM' and 'to collect, distill, and distribute knowledge about losses that affect our combat readiness'. CRM is knowledge distilled from losses that, effectively executed, can improve combat readiness.

b. The SA; CSA; and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health) established the following authorities:

(1) The Army Safety Program, AR 385-10, Purpose. "This regulation prescribes DA policy, responsibilities, and procedures to protect and preserve Army personnel and property against accidental loss." Para 1-1, AR 385-10 "Accidental loss" was expanded by 31 Jan 05 memorandum signed by SA and CSA.

(2) The Director Army Safety...will – "Serve as the risk management advocate on the Army Staff, synchronize the risk management actions of risk management integrating agents, and provide periodic progress reports to the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff, Army." Para 1-4c(14), AR 385-10

(3) It is Army policy to effectively integrate CRM into all Army plans, programs, decision process, operations, and activities as follows: "Decision makers at every level will employ the risk management process, to avoid unnecessary residual risk to mission, personnel, equipment, and the environment." Para 1-5b, AR 385-10

(4) Prevention program procedures provide that "Risk Management is the Army's principal risk reduction process to assist leaders in identifying and controlling hazards and making informed decisions." Para 2-3d, AR 385-10

c. Draft revision of FM 100-14, Risk Management, is expected to be coordinated by Training and Doctrine Command beginning in March 2005. The revised field manual will explicitly clarify the opportunity to mitigate risks in full spectrum of exposures Soldiers face on or off the battlefield, on or off duty.

10. What is the Combat Readiness process?

The Combat Readiness process, Point of Impact, is a 4 step system designed to rapidly distribute actionable knowledge to the field and reduce Army holistic loss. Further details prescribing how each step will be accomplished, and field actions to make Point of Impact effective, will be forthcoming. A description of each step follows:

Step 1. Digital Reporting: Single entry, multiple use, Immediate Notification starts Point of Impact. The CRC will accept loss information from a wide variety of sources and funnel it into the methodical and consistent system.

Step 2. Quick Turn: A Preliminary Loss Report (PLR) will be issued by the CRC within 48 hours of the Army reporting the loss. The goal of the PLR is to mitigate the likelihood of similar losses for like units or conditions. The PLR will provide what is known at the time and alert the field to potential imminent danger.

Step 3. Investigation: During the six weeks following the loss, investigation teams will assess the loss, document findings, and may also identify trends and develop new tools to lessen the risk. The investigation may be conducted by CRC Central Accident Investigation (CAI), the Installation Accident Investigation, or by other functional areas such as the Criminal Investigation Command. For investigations in areas other than accidents, the CRC may provide assistance. Regardless of who conducts the investigation, results will be synthesized and dispatched by the CRC as knowledge the Army can use to preserve our most precious resource—the American Soldier.

Step 4. Close the Loop: The data will support predictive analysis and provide actionable knowledge to the field. Lessons formerly only ‘noted’ will become lessons learned.

11. How do I make Immediate Notification of the death of Army personnel?

The Accident Reporting Automation System (ARAS) will be the method to make Immediate Notification. While ARAS is being updated to meet this need, contact the CRC 24/7 by phoning DSN 558.2660 or commercial 334.255.2660.

12. What resources are available to support CRM?

The resources available before the transformation continue to be at your service. Personnel in the Office of the Director of Army Safety support safety-centric issues. Personnel at the CRC, and tools found on the transitioning Army Safety website, support the expanded combat readiness mission. For example, you’ll find the Combat Readiness Center University at <https://safety.army.mil> with 112 courses to help you. Expanded topics will be added as the new CRC further compliments the need of our transforming Army.

Through the coming weeks, you’ll see more transition to combat readiness and saving Soldiers lives, *one boot print at a time*.

Email ArmyTransformation@safetycenter.army.mil with questions, recommended additions, or other comments to these FAQs.